THE

Authentic Trial, and Memoirs

OF

Iſaac Darkin, alias Dumas,

Capitally Convicted for a Highway-Robbery, near *Nettlebed*,

Before Mr. Baron ADAMS,

At the Lent Aſſizes at *Oxford* on *Friday* the Sixth,

And Executed for the ſame on *Monday* the 23d of *March*, 1761.

WHEREIN ARE GIVEN,

A faithful HISTORY of his LIFE;

Several ORIGINAL LETTERS,

Among which are thoſe that were the Occaſion of his being apprehended;

His Capital Conviction at *Chelmsford*;

His Conditional Pardon, and Return from ANTIGUA;

The Robbery of Lord *Percival*, and his Acquittal at *Saliſbury*;

TOGETHER WITH

His Behaviour after his Sentence at OXFORD, and at the Place of Execution.

When you ſhall theſe unlucky Deeds relate,
Speak of me as I am: Nothing extenuate,
Nor ſet down aught in Malice. OTHELLO.

OXFORD:

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A

FAITHFUL HISTORY

Of the LIFE of

ISAAC DARKIN.

THE Attention of the Publick is naturally excited towards thoſe, who, by violating the Laws of their Country, are become liable to Puniſhment.—A Curioſity this, not only laudable but uſeful, if confined within its due Limits, and applied to its proper Purpoſe. But, on the contrary, not only the Crime, but the Connexions and moſt private Hiſtory of the unfortunate Delinquents, are eagerly enquired into, and become the Subjects of every Converſation. To be ignorant of, or to have nothing new to offer upon theſe Topicks, almoſt excludes us from Society, in thoſe Places eſpecially, where a legal Scrutiny into the former happens to be made, or the Perſon and Family of the Criminals are known. Hence, too commonly, numberleſs Falſehoods are invented, every Particular that comes to our Knowledge exagerated, by the various Hands through which it paſſes. Hence alſo ariſe the different Repreſentations, which are made both of their Offence and Character: Some eſteeming them proper Subjects for Raillery, draw, as it were, a pleaſing Picture of an *Hero in Iniquity*, leſſening thereby in their Audience, an Abhorrence of Vice: Others magnifying each little Error and Frailty, are guilty of the blackeſt Injuries, by anticipating the Decrees of Juſtice, while they ſeem to promote a Love of Virtue. We cannot be too tender in theſe Reſpects, as we are apt to give Credit to Publick Rumour, and to regulate our Opinions from Common Fame; and this may be the Caſe of thoſe, upon whoſe Deciſion the Fate of the Offenders may depend.

After ſuch a Determination, it is our Duty to reſt ſatisfied with it, and our Reſentment, however laudable, againſt Impiety, ſhould give Way to Pity for the Sufferer. But as Curioſity requires ſomething more than generally appears from the Proceedings of a Court of Juſtice, and will readily embrace the moſt improbable and falſe Accounts, unleſs it meets with true and Authentick ones, the following Pages are deſign'd to ſatisfy it, even in the moſt minute Circumſtances. It is likewiſe humbly hoped, they will be productive of ſtill further Utility, by ſhewing in the Life of this

this unfortunate Man, the Danger of that Levity of Character, which ſo many in their early Days affect, as a Mark of Honeſty and Honour; ſince they may owe it more to the Care of a tender Parent, to the Advantage of Fortune, and the Want of Temptation, than to their own Prudence, that they have not yet arrived at the ſame Degree of Wickedneſs.

The Trial ſubjoined hereto, will no doubt give Pleaſure to every Lover of his Country; as it will preſent him with the moſt upright Sentence, founded upon the moſt accurate and full Evidence.—He will not be at a Loſs to form his Judgment upon the Truth of Facts, from any flat Contradictions of perjur'd Evidence, in favour of each Party: and he will, from the Materials here laid before him, admire the Laws of the Land, ſo ſwift to diſcover, and puniſh Offenders, and be confirmed in his Obſervance of them by the melancholy Effects which attend their Violation.

ISAAC DARKIN, the Subject of the following Memoirs, was the Son of a Cork-cutter, in Eaſt-cheap, near the Monument, London, by a ſecond Wife. By his firſt Wife, Mr. *Darkin* had no Child, and his ſecond Marriage was to a Widow Gentlewoman, whoſe Name was *Greenfield*, and who had one Daughter living by her former Huſband. This Gentlewoman brought him a genteel Fortune, which was in her own Diſpoſal, and by her he had one Daughter, and the unhappy Son of whom we are now ſpeaking: Mrs. *Darkin* died in Childbed of her Son, and the Daughter ſhe had by Mr. *Darkin*, was at that Time only eleven Months old. Upon her Deceaſe, Mr. *Darkin* was left in Truſt for Miſs *Greenfield*, his Daughter-in-law, and ſurvived his ſecond Wife about fourteen Years. Perhaps to this early Loſs of his Parents, this Youth's Misfortunes may in a great Meaſure be attributed.

He was brought up at a Boarding-School, at *Sevenoakes* in *Kent*, where he received what is commonly eſteemed a good Education. Here he ſhewed Marks of Genius and Abilities, ſufficient to have procured him the Reſpect of Mankind. But alas! upon his becoming his own Maſter ſo early, inſtead of qualifying himſelf for Trade, and improving his Faculties in uſeful Knowledge; for want of a proper Reſtraint, his Reſearches were rather after what is called *a Knowledge of the Town*; and the Reputation of a *Bon Companion*, was far more deſireable than that of *a reputable Tradeſman*. To *this End*, he ſoon inliſted himſelf into Company: The almoſt innumerable *Clubs*, and *Societies*, who diſtinguiſh themſelves, ſome by *arch*, and others by very *ſignificant Appellations*, quickly formed him into the *facetious*, *good-natured Fellow*, who is falſely termed "NO ONE'S ENEMY BUT HIS OWN:" He ſung his Song, told his Story, was apt at *Sentiment*, and drank his Bottle chearfully: ſo that he was a reſpectable Member of The *Killers of Care*,—the *Silenians*,—the *Sons of Sound Senſe*,—the *Sons of Nimrod*,—the *Bucks*,—*Bloods*,—*Snitchers*,—*Choice Spirits*,—*Senators*,—*Regulators*,—*A, b, c, darians*,—*Lumber Troopers*,—*Ubiquarians*,—&c.—&c.—&c. The Tranſition from this Company, to that of the Female World, is ſo natural, as to be rather inſeperable; for a Character of this Kind, would be but half formed, diveſted of his Miſtreſſes.

A little

A little while before the Death of old Mr. *Darkin*, his Circumſtances becoming bad, in order to ſecure Miſs *Greenfield* his Daughter in Law, he confeſſed a Judgment to her for a Sum exceeding his whole Effects, reſerving One Hundred Pounds each to his Son and Daughter.—This Judgment being entered up, the Creditors of the Old Gentleman were Sufferers; and ſhe, upon the Death of her Father in Law, carried on the Buſineſs ſtill in the Name of *Darkin*, and the Boy was taken from School to be her Aſſiſtant, and to appear in the Buſineſs, for ſecuring the Cuſtom of the Shop: But he being wild and careleſs, and more expenſive than ſhe approved of, after many Warnings to no Purpoſe, near four Years ago ſhe dropped the Buſineſs entirely; at which Time this young Fellow took wholly to the Highway for a Maintenance. He went on for about nine Months with amazing Succeſs; but at length, from his frequent Enterprizes, he was apprehended in the latter End of February, 1758, for robbing Captain Cockburn, and took his Trial for the ſame at the Lent Aſſizes at Chelmsford, in the March following; where he had no leſs than eight Indictments preferred againſt him, when he judiciouſly pleaded Guilty to his Firſt, for robbing the Captain, and thereby evaded being arraigned upon the Seven others which were found againſt him: For this Fact he was capitally convicted, and Sentence of Death was paſſed upon him; but the Judge, in Conſideration of his Youth, reſpited his Execution.

We may very reaſonably conjecture, that he had collected Supplies with ſome Degree of Succeſs, as he made no ſmall Figure in Publick. He frequented Places of Diverſion, drove his Phaeton, and conſtantly appeared upon the Turf; an Expence, which his original Fortune would by no Means ſupport, as that was no more than one Hundred Pounds, the whole of which Sum he never received, and was no farther concerned in the Buſineſs than as a Servant to Miſs *Greenfield*.

After his Conviction at Chelmsford, he remained in that Goal 'till the Summer Aſſize, when his Sentence was changed to Tranſportation for fourteen Years. Not long after this, a Scheme was formed by ſome of the Priſoners, in which he was concerned, to accompliſh an Eſcape, by murdering Mr. *Reynolds*, the Keeper, and all who ſhould oppoſe them: But juſt as this Project was ripe for Execution, *Darkin* made a Diſcovery; in Conſequence of which, the Keeper apply'd to the Hon. Mr. Nugent, then a Lord of the Treaſury, in *Darkin's* behalf, and obtained for him his Majeſty's free Pardon, on Condition of his enliſting in the 48th Regiment of Foot, commanded by Col. Croſs, and ſtationed then at Antigua.

Upon this Pardon Mr. *Darkin* was removed to the Savoy, in December 1758; from whence he attempted, by many Stratagems, to make his Eſcape; but all of them proving ineffectual, in January following he was put on board a Tranſport bound for Antigua. This Veſſel dropped down the River immediately, but by contrary Winds remained in the Downs upwards of three Weeks: All this Time he was meditating an Eſcape from on board, and had at length agreed with a Perſon to fetch him off in a Boat about Midnight, in Conſideration of a promiſed Reward of Six Guineas, one of which he gave him in Hand as Earneſt. This Expedient, however, though very promiſing, failed him; for the

Wind ſpringing up about three Hours before the Time agreed upon for the Boat to come, the Ship inſtantly ſet Sail. They had a good Paſſage he ſaid, and he was delivered up ſafe to his Regiment. About a Fortnight after Mr. *Darkin's* Arrival at Antigua, one of the Officers having Diſpatches to carry to Guadalupe, and finding this Youth much ſuperior in Capacity to the People who are generally met with in the Station he then filled, took him by way of Servant; but he was not permitted to go aſhore. The Veſſel laid off Guadalupe till the Officer's Return, which was in two Days; and as ſoon as they got back to Antigua, *Darkin* was put upon the Drill to learn his Exerciſe, at which he was ſo expert, as to be taken off again in a Fortnight.

This Life was not at all agreeable to our enterprizing Youth; he found a great Severity was exerciſed by the Officers, and their Diſcipline was ſo ſtrict, that though he was with them in all but ſeven Weeks, in that Time he was three Times tried by a Court Martial. It was, notwithſtanding, his good Fortune to be each Time acquitted; yet to avoid what might happen afterwards, he was determined to deſert, which he did in the following miraculous Manner.——By inſinuating himſelf into the good Opinion of the Captain of a Merchant Ship lying in the Harbour, and by large Promiſes of Gratuity at his landing in England, though the certain Penalty, if diſcovered, is One Hundred Pounds for ſuffering a Soldier of the Garriſon to be taken on board, they riſqued it, ſtowed *Darkin* for the firſt Night, who being miſſed in about five Hours, the Ship was ſearched without his being diſcovered: The Captain then thought all was ſafe, but as he was found miſſing all Night, and this Ship being ſtill ſuſpected to have him concealed aboard, another File were ſent to ſearch next Day. When theſe Soldiers entered the Ship, *Darkin* was then among the Crew, in a Sailor's Habit, but beſides his Dreſs, was otherwiſe ſo much diſguiſed, that they paſſed by him without the leaſt Suſpicion.

The Ship, in her Paſſage home, touched at divers Places to traffick, but as his whole Deſire was once more to ſet Foot in his Native Country, he continued with the Ship, and arrived at Portſmouth after an Abſence from England of about nine Months only: He immediately ſet out for London, under Pretence of raiſing from his Friends the Rewards promiſed for his Paſſage, and thus was once more at large.

Upon his coming up to Town, he ſlept at a Widow Gentlewoman's near Newgate almoſt ſix Months, without her Knowledge, having been taken in privately by her Son, who was one of *Darkin's* former Acquaintance. Whilſt he was backwards and forwards at this Place, he was guilty of a great many Robberies in different Parts of the Kingdom, but carefully avoided Eſſex, or any where near London, and went by the Names of Hamilton or Harris.

During this Time, as Money was plenty, and he was addicted to Women, he led a moſt profligate Life: His Robberies were chiefly committed in diſtant Parts of the Kingdom, particularly in Somerſetſhire, Nottinghamſhire, Leiceſterſhire, Glouceſterſhire, Northamptonſhire, Wiltſhire, &c. till at length he foreſaw it was impoſſible to paſs much longer unſuſpected, and therefore determined to go to Sea, and for that Purpoſe went down to Portſmouth, and entered himſelf on board His Majeſty's

Ship

Ship the Royal George, and ſoon after got rated as a Midſhipman. Under Furlows from his Ship he thought himſelf pretty ſecure, and at this Time viſited Bath ſeveral Times, and committed many Robberies, particularly one on Clarken Down, and that of my Lord Percival.

The Robbery of Lord Percival, indeed, ſeems rather implied than poſitive, for which Reaſon, as the Exploit was of an extraordinary Nature we ſhall ſet down Mr. *Darkin*'s own Relation of the Matter as well as what has appeared from his Lordſhip, and the Reader will find no Embarraſſment in forming his Judgment.

This Robbery of his Lordſhip was committed upon Sunday Afternoon the 22d of June 1760, below the Devizes, by a ſingle Highwayman, dreſſed in black, with a Crape over his Face, and mounted upon a black Gelding. Upon his firſt coming up to the Poſt Chaiſe he preſented a Piſtol and demanded his Lordſhip's Money: His Lordſhip at this Time being in a Hackney Poſt-Chaiſe and without a Servant, immediately gave him about thirteen or fourteen Guineas, which Money he put in his Left-Hand Waiſtcoat Pocket; but not being content inſiſted on his Lordſhip's delivering his Purſe, and threatened to blow his Brains out if he refuſed to comply with his Demands. On this Second Attack his Lordſhip ſeized the Piſtol, and in wreſting it out of his Hand diſmounted the Highwayman, and jumped out of the Chaiſe to ſeize him. The Highwayman however got clear of his Lordſhip, and attempted to run off, when finding himſelf cloſely purſued, he turned ſhort and preſented another Piſtol: Upon this his Lordſhip ſnapped his at the Highwayman, but the Priming having been ſcattered in the Scuffle, it miſſed Fire. The Highwayman then advanced, and told him that his Life was now in his Hands, and therefore begged he would deliver his Purſe without further Reſiſtance, as a Perſon of his Rank could not be ſuppoſed to travel with ſo trifling a Sum. His Lordſhip aſſured him upon his Honour that he had no more Money about him; that he had Money in his Portmanteau, but had not the Key. The Highwayman finding him reſolute and intrepid, only begged his Lordſhip would not appear againſt him if he ſhould be ſo unfortunate as to be apprehended, mounted his Horſe, and then rode off.

In a few Hours, however, it was Mr. *Darkin*'s Misfortune to be upon the Neighbouring Downs, and as his Perſon, his Dreſs, and his Horſe bore a cloſe Similitude to thoſe deſcribed by his Lordſhip, to the People which he had ſent from the Devizes after him, he was purſued as the Highwayman. — Mr. *Darkin's* own Relation of this Circumſtance was thus: He ſaid that at ſome Diſtance he obſerved ſeveral Perſons following in Company, but as they came leiſurely along he had no Suſpicion that they had the leaſt Deſign againſt him. He was alſo riding very gently, ſo that they came up with him and fell into Converſation; but ſoon after one of the Company ſeized hold of his Collar. *Darkin* had notwithſtanding, the good Luck to diſmount him by a Blow, and got clear: He then ſet out full ſpeed, and was purſued backwards and forwards for near four Hours; 'till at length finding his Horſe almoſt jaded and himſelf greatly fatigued, his firſt Reſolution was to ſhoot himſelf; but this Expedient he rejected, and determined rather to riſk the Loſs of his Life from the Hands of his Purſuers. He therefore ſtopped ſhort, turned about his Horſe, and with a Piſtol in his Hand waited their coming up: That he then dared them to fire, though one of them was armed with

with a long Gun, and ſwore if they miſſed their Mark he would ſhoot the firſt Man dead who ſhould oppoſe him: Upon which he ſays, they ſuffered him to ride through them, and go off unmoleſted.

In this purſuit *Darkin* had a Fall from his Horſe and loſt his Hat, but in going along meeting with a Countryman bought his for four Shillings; after which, between Ten and Eleven o'Clock at Night he rode down to a Farmer's Houſe at Uphaven, and deſired the Farmer would take Compaſſion upon a benighted Traveller, who had received a Fall from his Horſe, and loſt his Way: The Farmer who had been at the Devizes that Day, and had heard of the Robbery and Lord *Percival*'s Deſcription of the Highwayman, told him he could not accommodate him, but that there was a little Public Houſe in the Village where he might make Shift very well; that they were honeſt People, and he would ſend a Servant to ſhew him the Houſe. Here *Darkin* was ſuffered to go quietly to Bed, but ſoon after was ſeized by the Farmer and his Neighbours, and taken next Morning to the Devizes.

At the Time he was taken there was found in his Poſſeſſion the fellow Piſtol to that which Lord *Percival* had ſeized; and in his Waiſtcoat Pocket he had thirteen Guineas. At firſt he refuſed to give any Account of himſelf, and pleaded his Innocence ſo ſtrongly that they were going to releaſe him: But one of the Members of the Houſe of Commons happening to come at that critical Juncture, inſiſted upon his being detained, and he was committed to Priſon at the Devizes by the Name of *John Dumas*, from whence attempting to break out, for Security he was double fettered.

At the enſuing Midſummer Aſſize at Saliſbury he was tried for the Robbery before Mr. Juſtice *Wilmott*, and charged with taking from Lord *Percival* the Sum of Twelve, Thirteen, or Fourteen Guineas, his Lordſhip could not aſcertain which. The principal Evidence upon the Trial were, Lord Percival, and the Driver of the Chaiſe; neither of whom ſwearing poſitively to his Perſon he was Acquitted, though the Chain of Circumſtances were ſo ſtrong as to convince the Court of his Guilt. The Money found upon him ſeemed to tally very exactly with his Lordſhip's Loſs; in his Pocket was found a Piece of black Crape; and the Confuſion which attended him at the Time he was taken up were ſtrong preſumptive Proofs.

His Defence, which was very artful, was, That being a Native of the Weſt Indies, and quite a Stranger in this Country, he had loſt his Road in endeavouring to go the neareſt Way from Bath to Portſmouth; that Night coming on, and himſelf much fatigued, he made to the firſt Village for Refreſhment: That it was not to be wondered at, if he ſeemed confuſed when he came into the Houſe, as he was a bewildered benighted Traveller. He ſaid he had Friends in England, but that they lived at too great a Diſtance to appear upon his Trial: That he was a Sea-faring Man, was in the Service at the Taking of Guadalupe; and a black Crape Neck-Cloth was his cuſtomary Dreſs: That he had purchaſed a Pair of new Piſtols juſt before he left London, and had by Accident loſt one upon the Road, that muſt have been picked up by the Perſon who committed the Robbery with which he then ſtood charged: And that the Expreſſions which the Landlord had ſworn to, and which were apprehended to betray Guilt, were occaſioned by his Surprize at being apprehended as a Highwayman.

Upon

Upon his Acquittal, he immediately petitioned the Court for a Reſtitution of the Money that had been taken from him, in which the Court acquiſced, and it was immediately returned: But before he left the Bar, Mr. Juſtice *Wilmott* moſt pathetically warned him to avoid the like Dangers for the future, and after ſpeaking of the Lenity of his Proſecutor, diſmiſſed him. He diſcovered great Impatience 'till he had got off his Fetters and was diſcharged, which was about Five o'Clock in the Evening, when he immediately ſet out for London in a Poſt Chaiſe.

During Mr. *Dumas*'s Impriſonment at Saliſbury, we find his Sufferings made a deep Impreſſion upon the tender Hearts of the Ladies, ſome of whom having viſited him in his Confinement, his obliging Manner, genteel Addreſs, lively Diſpoſition, and whole Deportment, ſo ſtruck them, that his Fame ſoon became the Diſcourſe of the Tea Table; and the happy Termination of his Affair with my Lord *Percival*, at that Time produced the following Copy of Verſes.

Certain BELLES, *who viſited him in Priſon, to* DUMAS.

I.

JOY to thee, lovely Thief! that thou
Haſt 'ſcap'd the fatal String;
Let Gallows groan with ugly Rogues,
Dumas muſt never ſwing.

II.

Doſt thou ſeek Money? — To thy Wants
Our Purſes we'll reſign;
Cou'd we our Hearts to Guineas coin,
Thoſe Guineas all were thine.

III.

To Bath in Safety let my Lord
His loaded Pockets carry;
Thou ne'er again ſhalt tempt the Road,
Sweet Youth! — if thou wilt marry.

IV.

No more ſhall niggard Travellers
Avoid thee, — we'll enſure them;
To us thou ſhalt conſign thy Balls
And Piſtol; we'll ſecure 'em.

V.

Yet think not, when the Chains are off,
Which now thy Legs bedeck,
To fly; in Fetters ſofter far
We'll chain thee by the Neck.

We find, from the Event, the Ladies are not good at Prognoſtication; yet we are convinced, that if their Prayers would have availed any Thing,

his Fate had been leſs ſevere; for wherever he came, he never failed of captivating the Fair Sex. In this Point, he did not a little pride himſelf, and uſed frequently to repeat the preceding Copy of Verſes. He alſo uſed to tell the following Story, ſometimes of himſelf, and ſometimes as the Adventure of a Friend of his, but always ſhewed Pleaſure in being ſuppoſed the Man.——That having an Amour with a pretty Girl in a Field, he happened to be overlooked by the Farmer, who uncivilly demanded five Shillings for his Treſpaſs in the Corn. Upon which he expreſſed his Willingneſs to give the required Damages, if the Farmer would change him a Guinea.——That the Farmer pulled out a yellow Canvaſs Bag to give Change, which he afterwards found to contain Twenty-one Guineas, Seven Half-Guineas, and ſome Silver; all which the Farmer very calmly gave up, on clapping a Piſtol to his Breaſt, and telling him that he was inſtantly a dead Man if he made the leaſt Reſiſtance.

Among other Robberies, he alſo related one, which we find well atteſted, whatever we may think of the above; viz. That upon Sherwood Foreſt, in his Return from the North, where he had met with great Succeſs, he attacked a Gentleman who had his Wife along with him in a ſingle Horſe Chaiſe. The Gentleman told *Darkin* that he would not ſuffer himſelf to be robbed, though all the Money he had was two Guineas: *Darkin* inſiſted upon having the Gold, and high Words enſued; at length, the Gentleman produced a Horſeman's Piſtol and ſhot: *Darkin* did not return the Fire, but ſtill perſiſting in his Demand, the Gentleman jumped out of the Chaiſe with his other Piſtol, and after a farther Diſpute, fired a ſecond Time. This done, he got into the Chaiſe again, and although he had no more Piſtols, abſolutely refuſed to give up his Money. *Darkin* as reſolutely inſiſted upon having it, and aſked the Gentleman if he did not think he deſerved to be ſhot for his Behaviour: Then riding to the other Side of the Chaiſe, he clapped the Piſtol to his Wife's Head, and ſwore he would blow her Brains out that Moment. This Threat and the Cries of the Lady, procured him the Money; for which, however, he paid dear, having received a Wound in his Leg.

That Day Six Weeks on which Mr. Darkin was releaſed at Saliſbury he committed the Robbery for which he ſuffered; was apprehended upon the Saturday Morning following, and by Mr. Juſtice Fielding committed to Newgate on the 30th of Auguſt, 1760, where he laid above Five Months, and was removed by a Habeas Corpus to Oxford the 24th of January laſt.

The Circumſtances attending this Robbery will be fully ſhewn by the Trial, which we have here given at large, and it will appear from the Evidence, that Mr. *Darkin* dined at the Red Lion at Nettlebed on the Day he robbed Mr. Gammon; at which Place he left two Letters to be forwarded to London; but as the Mail was gone by when theſe Letters were left, they were next Morning delivered to one of the Oxford Coachmen, and by Accident heard of, and taken out of his Hands, and ſent to Mr. Gammon inſtead of the Perſons to whom they were directed. Theſe are the Original Letters which occaſioned Mr. *Darkin*'s being diſcovered, as well as apprehended. The firſt was written at the Red

Lion

Lion at Nettlebed, to prevent the Owner of the Mare from being uneasy that he did not return according to his Time, and is as follows, verbatim.

" *To Mr. Beck, Livery Stable Keeper, at the Horse and Groom, Gravel*
" *Lane, Southwark, London.*

" *Mr. Beck,*

" *I WRITE this Letter purposely to let you know that I am obliged*
" *to remain in the Country longer than I thought for; your Mare is well,*
" *and you may depend I'll take as much Care of her as if she was in your own*
" *Stables. I shall return in a few Days.*

" *I am your humble Servant,*

" *August* 26, 1760. *CHA*s. *HARRIS.*"

With the above Letter was left another, bearing the same Superscription as that which follows; and Miss *Cannon* by this Means being found out, was brought before Justice *Fielding*, from whose Information *Darkin*'s Lodgings were discovered, and he was accordingly found there, and taken in his Bed. — In this Letter Mr. *Darkin* complained to his *Polly* of his bad Success; and acquainted her, that a Gypsey had told him his Fortune, and that he was afraid he should never see her more. — But this Letter it is apprehended Miss *Cannon* took away from Mr. *Fielding*'s by Mistake, and left in its Room what is here subjoined.

" *To Miss Polly Cannon, at Mr. Lawson's, Peruke-Maker, Dean Street,*
" *Soho, London.*

" *Miss,* *Sunday Night*, 1760.

" *ALTHO' I have been so unfortunate as to lose your good Wishes, I*
" *hope you will not refuse delivering the Inclosed to Miss P——; she,*
" *poor Girl, I am convinced never incurred your Displeasure; as for myself,*
" *I think, if ever I am so happy as to see you agin, to expostulate with you on*
" *your unjust Behaviour to me. How is it possible, Miss, after the Favours*
" *I have received from you, (I mean those of Friendship, no others, I declare)*
" *how, I say, is it possible but that I must have a particular Regard for you;*
" *and you know Desire has no Regard to Prudence; it despises Danger, and*
" *overlooks Impossibilities. How vile, how despicable must I be grown in your*
" *Opinion, when you denied seeing me, even at a Time when the Odds were a*
" *Hundred to Ten whether you ever saw me again! O cruel, hard-hearted,*
" *barbarous Miss C——n! But I still must love you, no more though than a*
" *Friend I assure you; so don't expect any Thing else, for I protest I'll not be*
" *made uneasy any longer. But now to be quite serious, I am in a cursed*
" *Scrape, miserably poor, and almost dispiritted. Dear Miss, for God's*
" *Sake offer up a Prayer for me; possibly your Prayers, (for you know*
" *I am certain you do not often pray) may be of greater Service than an*
" *Archbishop's, who makes praying his Business. I desire Miss you'll not*
" *deny seeing me at my Return, if ever I am so happy; and you may*
" *depend*

" *depend I'll not fail, on all Occaſions, to ſhew how much I cheriſh the* " *Title I pretend to, of being your ſincere Friend. Adieu.*

" *P. S. If at my Return you have no Deſire of ſeeing me, the Oddneſs of* " *my Adventures muſt demand a Relation of them, I mean in your Pre-* " *ſence, when I'll try to convince you nothing for the Future, ſhall make* " *me diſoblige her I am ſo greatly obligated to.*

The following genteel Epiſtle, was found incloſed in that directed to Miſs *Cannon*, thus addreſſed:

" *To My Dear Little Creature*
" *who is poſſeſſed of all I can give*
" *which is my Affections*
" *Theſe.*

" *Dear Miſs, Monday Night*, 60.

" *AFTER I wrote my laſt I did my Endeavour to meet Succeſs; but* " *to my Diſappointment I then was more unfortunate. God knows what* " *I ſhall do: I hardly have received what Money I have ſpent. Unleſs my Cuſ-* " *tomers pay better, I think of returning; for I fear Buſineſs, it being ſo bad* " *in the Country, will never ſupport me. I have met with ſuch uncommon bad* " *Fortune, had I now in my Poſſeſſion three or four Guineas, I would inſtantly* " *go to Sea; for I fear my Fate will be ſoon to break; ſo that I never can be* " *able to get into Trade any more. I'll not trouble you, my Dear, with* " *any more of my Affairs till you ſee me; though I am under ſome Apprehen-* " *ſions that you never will, for I am in the Worſt of Circumſtances: Fearful* " *of coming to London without the Money I have owing me about the Country;* " *and I am now at ſo great an Expence, that I know not how to act. Could* " *I get four or five Guineas to pay Mr. Chamberlain his Bill, I think I* " *might return without Fear of being arreſted; and then, you know, I might* " *bring my Creditors to ſome Compoſition; merely I might extricate myſelf* " *from my dreaded Misfortunes. I fear, my Dear, you don't pray for my* " *Succeſs: Certainly if you did, your Prayers muſt carry a Power with them* " *ſo as to raiſe me from the deep Gulph.*

" *I am fixed in yours while I am D.*"

N. B. Theſe Three Letters were all in Mr. *Darkin*'s own Hand-Writing, and the *P*——, is ſuppoſed to ſignify *Palmer*.

THE

THE AUTHENTIC TRIAL OF ISAAC DARKIN,

For a Highway Robbery, &c.

ON *Friday* Morning, the 6th of *March*, 1761, Mr. Baron *Adams*, (who came the Circuit alone on Account of Mr. Juſtice *Wilmot*'s Indiſpoſition) having the Night before finiſhed the Buſineſs on the Niſi Prius Side, came to the Crown Bar, and the Bill having been found againſt Mr. *Darkin* on *Thurſday* Evening, his was the firſt Trial.

Mr. *Darkin* was brought into Court before his Lordſhip came: He was very decently dreſſed in Mourning, and behaved all the Time with the utmoſt Compoſure.——The Council for the Crown were, Mr. Serjeant *Nares*, and Mr. *Skinner*; and for the Priſoner, Mr. *Stow*.——The Jurors for our Sovereign Lord the King were as follow:

Ed. Wetherſton.	*John Hodſon.*
John Humphries.	*John Lovell.*
Robert Gardner.	*John Joyner.*
George Pitman.	*John Smith.*
Joſeph Nicholls.	*Robert Frankling.*
Richard Hall.	*John Falkner.*

The Priſoner was indicted in due Form, by the Name of *Iſaac Darking*, alias *Dumas*, alias *Hamilton*, alias *Harris*, Labourer, for aſſaulting Mr. *Robert Gammon* on the King's Highway, at a Place called *Gangsdown-Hill* in the Pariſh of *Nuffield*, in the County of *Oxford*, putting him in Fear of his Life, and taking from the ſaid *Robert Gammon* one Gold Watch Value Five Pounds, one Piece of Money called a Guinea, the current Coin of this Kingdom, and Five Shillings in Money numbered.

The Priſoner having been arraigned, and pleaded Not Guilty to his Indictment, before he put himſelf upon his Trial begged to offer ſomething to his Lordſhip: He then produced the Affidavit of *John Hall*, ſetting forth, That he the Deponent, had called, on the Second Day of March, Inſt. upon *John Oſborn*, with a Subpœna to attend the Trial of *Iſaac Darkin*, at the Aſſizes at Oxford, when he found the ſaid Evidence confined to his Bed by a violent Fever, and unable to attend the Trial. Hereupon the Priſoner moved the Court to have his Trial put off till the next Aſſizes, alledging that his Safety greatly depended on the Teſtimony which this Evidence could give, and without which he was in no wiſe prepared for his Defence.

The Affidavit being delivered to his Lordſhip, was found not to be duly ſworn before a Magiſtrate; and likewiſe to be deficient in point of Form, as not ſetting forth the Teſtimony which the Evidence would have given, whereby the Court might have been enabled to judge whether it was eſſentially material in behalf of the Priſoner.—Other

Objections

Objections were alſo made by the Council for the Crown, upon which the Motion was over-ruled; and Robert Gammon, the Proſecutor, was called.

Robert Gammon, ſworn.

Court. Pray where do you live, and what do you know of Iſaac Darkin, the Priſoner at the Bar?

Robert Gammon. My Lord, I live in London; and in Auguſt laſt being at Henley upon a Viſit, together with my Son in Law and my Daughter, and being deſirous of ſeeing Oxford, I went to the Bell at Henley, and hired Poſt-Chaiſe, and on the 25th of Auguſt laſt ſet out to ſee the Univerſity here.

Court. Pray what is your Son's Name, and where does he live?

R. Gammon. I did not mention it, my Lord, as he does not come here to proſecute: His Name is Thomas Dubois; he lives at the Dog and Pot in Cheapſide. My Lord, they were in in one Poſt Chaiſe, and my Friend Mr. Skinner, who is here, and Myſelf in another.

Court. Inform the Court and Jury what happened to you.

R. Gammon. The Day following, Tueſday the 26th, we ſet out from the Angel Inn on our Return to Mr. Skinner's Houſe at Henley; and at a Place which I have ſince been informed is called Gangſdown-Hill, the Priſoner at the Bar paſſed by the Poſt Chaiſe on Horſeback, and looked in. He rode leiſurely on, and ſoon after paſſing us, returned again and looked in a ſecond Time. My Companion appearing at this Time to be drowſy, or aſleep, I jogged him to wake him, and on ſaying that an odd looking Fellow had paſſed the Chaiſe in the Manner I have deſcribed, and expreſſing my Apprehenſions of his being a Highwayman, Mr. Skinner replied, No, no, there are no Highwaymen in this Part of the Country; you are as ſafe as if you were in your own Houſe. He ſoon after paſſed the Chaiſe again, and as he was ſtill on the oppoſite Side to which I ſat, I had a full View both of him and his his Horſe. In a very little while after the firſt Chaiſe was ſtopped, and I then ſaid to my Companion, *Tom* it is a Highwayman; for he is now robbing the firſt Chaiſe, and has a Piſtol at my Daughter's Breaſt; upon which he rubbed his Eyes and waked thoroughly.

Court. Pray how long was it between the Time of his paſſing you, and his ſtopping the other Chaiſe?

R. Gammon. It might be a Minute, or better.

Court. Did you ſee him all the while?

R. Gammon. I ſaw him paſs by the Chaiſe, and only loſt Sight of him for a very little while, juſt as he croſſed the Road before the other Chaiſe.

Court. Pray could you ſee your Daughter?

R. Gammon. I could ſee her Arm, and the Piſtol in the Priſoner's Hand; but he had then a Crape over his Face as low as his Mouth.

Court. Are you ſure it was the ſame Perſon?

R. Gammon. Yes, I am very poſitive it was.

Court. Pray how far were the Carriages apart?

R. Gammon. As cloſe as they could well be, my Lord; I could hear the Priſoner's Threats very plainly.

Court. Did no other Perſon paſs by in the mean while?

R. Gammon. No, my Lord, no Perſon whatſoever; there was a Higgler's Cart juſt before the other Chaiſe at the Time, but no Perſon paſſed or repaſſed.

Court. You ſay the Priſoner, when he rode by your Chaiſe the laſt Time, went forward and croſſed the Road; pray did he ride before the Higler's Cart you have mentioned?

R. Gammon. That I could not ſee: I ſaw him ride by the other Chaiſe, on the oppoſite Side whereon I ſate, and ſoon after I ſaw him on the ſame Side I was on, with his Piſtol in at the Door of the Chaiſe, preſented at my Daughter.

Court. How long might it be from his paſſing you to the Time of your ſeeing him again?

R. Gammon. About a Minute perhaps.

Court. You ſay you could not ſee your Daughter; how could you be ſo poſitive as to the Priſoner?

R. Gammon. I knew him by his Figure, by his Dreſs, his Horſe, and the under Part of his Face.

Court.

Court. Pray had you a full View of his Face the firſt Time he rode by you, and was it then uncovered?

R. Gammon. Yes, my Lord, I had; I was ſitting as it were facing the Side on which he rode, and he turned his Head towards me both the firſt and ſecond Time, ſo that I had a full View of him.

Court. Had he then any Covering upon his Face?

R. Gammon. No.

Court. What Dreſs had he on?

R. Gammon. He had on a Surtout Court, which was looſe.

Court. Of what Colour was his Coat?

R. Gammon. I am not very poſitive, but believe it was blue.

Court. What kind of Horſe did he ride upon?

R. Gammon. The Mare was a Sorrel or Cheſnut, my Lord, I am not well acquainted with the Colour of Horſes, and had a *ſwaſh* Tail, with White in her Face, and upon her Legs. The Mare was very remarkable.

Court. Was his Face covered all the while he robbed the other Poſt-Chaiſe?

R. Gammon. Yes, it was covered as low as his Mouth with a Piece of Crape, which in Appearance might be ſewed to the Crown of his Hat, as it was looſe at the Bottom, and blew about.

Court. How long was he in robbing the other Chaiſe?

R. Gammon. But a ſhort Time; about two or three Minutes; and he then came to the Poſt-Chaiſe I was in, to the Window on the left Hand, with the Crape over his Face, and producing his Piſtol, demanded my Money, Watch, and Rings. His Hand trembled very much, ſo that I was greatly afraid leſt the Piſtol ſhould go off involuntarily; for I did not imagine that he would intentionally do Miſchief; but the Piſtol was very near my Breaſt, and the Priſoner ſwore much, and uttered dreadful Threats. I told him I had no Watch, and deſired he would remove his Piſtol; which he did: I then gave him a Guinea and ſome Silver.

Court. How much Silver?

R. Gammon. There might be eight or nine Shillings: He wanted more; upon which I told him he did not hold what he had; that he had dropped ſome in the Road, which I deſired he would take up, but he did not; but replied your Watch, your Watch. I ſtill denied having a Watch, and kept it where I had concealed it. The Priſoner then addreſſed himſelf to my Friend *Skinner*, but I cannot ſwear where the Piſtol was at that Time. Mr. *Skinner* offered him his Watch, which he refuſed becauſe it was Silver; and Mr. *Skinner* replied, there is nobody in this Company who has a Gold one, except my Friend here. Upon this Diſcovery he again demanded mine, which I was obliged to produce, but warned him from taking it; telling him, that it being an old Family Watch was very remarkable, and might be a Means of his being diſcovered.

Court. Pray did Mr. *Skinner* give him any Money?

R. Gammon. Yes, I believe he did; but how much I cannot ſay, as it was wrapped up in a Piece of Paper. He offered him too ſome Tavern Bills, as a Reaſon why he had not more Money, having expended it in paying them.

Court. Well, did he take your Watch; and what did he ſay or do then?

R. Gammon. He gave no Anſwer as to it's heing a Family Watch; however he did not take it then, but went again to the other Poſt Chaiſe.

Court. Pray when he went backwards and forwards, how did he ride?

R. Gammon. Very leiſurely.

Court. Did he again return to your Chaiſe?

R. Gammon. Yes, he ſtaid at the firſt Poſt Chaiſe two or three Minutes, and then came back again to us.

Court. Pray where was he when he returned?

R. Gammon. Cloſe by me. He then inſiſted upon my Watch, which I gave him; but told him he had better leave it. Mr. *Skinner* then told him, that if he would leave the Watch he was welcome to what he had had, and he ſhould not be ſought after, nor any Proſecution carried on againſt him; or that if he would return the Watch by any Means, he ſhould receive four or five Guineas, for which Sum he had told us he would give it up, and Mr. *Skinner* then told him my Name, and that I lived juſt going into Weſt Smithfield. He took

took my Watch, and ſaying it ſhould be returned, rode away behind the Chaiſe, towards Oxford.

Court. Well, did you hear or ſee any Thing farther of the Priſoner?

R. Gammon. In about a Minute he again returned, and ſaid he was an unfortunate young Fellow, and that he hoped if he ſhould be apprehended we would not appear againſt him: To which I replied, *That is another Part of Speech.* He then rode backwards, and I did not ſee any more of him.

Court. Pray what Time of the Day was it?

R. Gammon. About Seven o'Clock in the Evening.

Court. How long do you apprehend he was about robbing you?

R. Gammon. About Twenty Minutes: I looked at my Watch when I concealed it, and again when I delivered it to the Priſoner.

Court. Look at the Priſoner, Mr. *Gammon*; can you ſay poſitively that is the Man who robbed you?

R. Gammon. Yes, I do poſitively, were I to die this Minute.

Court. Well, what happened farther?

R. Gammon. We went on to Henley, to Mr. *Skinner*'s Houſe, and got there about dark; and as we had before taken Places in the Henley Stage Coach, next Morning we ſet out for London. In the Evening of the next Day, Wedneſday, a Man came into my Shop with a Letter, which was from my Friend Mr. *Skinner*, and incloſed Three others.

[*Theſe Letters are omitted here, and inſerted in the preceding Account, as they were not proved in Court.*]

Court. Pray who brought you the Letters you mention?

R. Gammon. I do not know the Perſon; I believe he was a Porter. I have one of the Letters here Upon reading my Letter, I found that the others had been intercepted, and that the Horſe the Highwayman rode was hired of Mr. *Beck*, in the Borough. Upon this I went to Mr. *Blagden*, a Surgeon, who had a Horſe at Livery at the ſame Place, and deſired him to go along with me, which he did the next Morning, Thurſday.

Court. Where are Mr. Beck's Stables?

R. Gammon. In Gravel-Lane, Southwark. — I aſked the Servant, whether Mr. *Harris* was returned? He anſwered No; but that he had ſent back the Mare by another Perſon, with a Letter. I went into the Stable, ſaw the Mare, and ſaid that is the Mare the Highwayman rode: The Servant was preſent when I pointed out the Mare.

[George Beck, *Son to Mr.* Beck, *was called.*]

Court. Is that the Perſon you ſaw at Mr. *Beck*'s?

R. Gammon. I believe that is the Perſon who opened the Stable Door; I am not very poſitive, but believe it to be the ſame.

Court. Well, Sir, did you do any Thing further?

R. Gammon. Yes; I waited upon Mr. *Fielding*, and communicated the Affair to him, who, on producing the Letters, ſaid, you ſhall ſoon have your Watch and the Priſoner too. The Saturday following Mr. *Fielding* ſent for me. The Priſoner was at Mr. *Fielding*'s when I came there, and upon my coming, Mr. *Fielding* aſked divers Queſtions; particularly, whether I could ſwear to the Piſtol? To which I anſwered in the Negative; but that I remembered it was a ſmall one. Mr. *Fielding* aſked the Priſoner where he was on Tueſday the 26th of Auguſt; and as he made no Reply, I anſwered, he was robbing me near Nettlebed: The Priſoner made no Anſwer to any Thing, till my ſaying that I was ſure he was the Man, and then he ſaid, I never ſaw you before; to which I replied, I wiſh I had never ſeen you: I could ſwear to you very ſafely before, but now I have heard you ſpeak I can do it with ten Times the Certainty: I am as certain as to your Voice, as I was before as to your Perſon. Upon this the Priſoner was committed to Newgate.

Court. Have you ſeen the Priſoner at any Time ſince his Commitment?

R. Gammon. I was at the Old Bailey at the Seſſions, and ſaw him when he was brought up at the Delivery of the Gaol, in order to his being detained, and removed to this Place, to take his Trial; and I knew him then to be the ſame Perſon.

Croſs

Croſs Examination.

Council for the Priſoner. Pray what Time of the Day was it when the Robbery was committed?

R. Gammon. About Seven o'Clock in the Evening.

Council. You was under a good deal of Surprize to be ſure?

R. Gammon. At firſt I was; but I ſoon recollected myſelf, and was then more terrified from the Shaking of the Hand, than from any Thing elſe; as I did not ſuppoſe a Highwayman would deſignedly kill me.

Council. No, I hope not. But pray did you ever ſee the Priſoner before?

R. Gammon. No never.

Council. How can you be ſure that you are not miſtaken? You ſay his Face was covered?

R. Gammon. I could ſee the lower Part of his Face; and I knew him by his Voice; his Voice is particular.

Council. What, when you hear Four or Five Voices together can you diſtinguiſh a particular Voice?

R. Gammon. Yes, I could.

Council. Ay! that's very extraordinary; it's more than I could do. Pray could you diſtinguiſh my Voice in that Manner?

R. Gammon. Yes Sir, I could eaſily diſtinguiſh yours.

Council. You ſay the Man was abſolutely a Stranger to you?

R. Gammon. He was ſo.

Council. Was the Crape off from his Face from the Time of his firſt preſenting the Piſtol?

R. Gammon. No.

Council. And are you, notwithſtanding, certain as to the Man?

R. Gammon. I do inſiſt it is the ſame.

Council. Why, if the Priſoner was the Man, I ſuppoſe Mr. Skinner can be certain of it as well as you?

R. Gammon. Mr. Skinner had not the Opportunity of ſeeing him ſo plainly as me, if he had been quite awake; becauſe I ſat as it were facing the Window of the Poſt Chaiſe which he paſſed by, and Mr. Skinner ſat from it.

Council. You ſay Mr. Skinner was drowſy, and that on your waking him you told him there was an odd ſort of a Fellow had paſſed by; pray why did you think him particularly odd, if it was the Perſon on whom you have fixed?

R. Gammon. Becauſe I thought it was an odd Thing for a Man to ride backwards and forwards, and look into the Chaiſe in the Manner he did.

Council. What ſaid Mr. Skinner when you waked him?

R. Gammon. He ſaid, *hm, hm, hm.*

Council. Did you afterwards ſee the Priſoner with his naked Face?

R. Gammon. Yes, part of it: I ſaw from the Chin to the Lip.

Council. On your waking Mr. Skinner, pray did he look out after the Man?

R. Gammon. No. He ſpoke as if he was half aſleep. Soon after I ſaid, the Man is now robbing my Daughrer; let down the Window.

Council. Pray Mr. Gammon, are you a Judge of Horſes?

R. Gammon. No, not in the leaſt; far from it.

Council. I thought ſo from your Deſcription. Then pray how happened you to take ſo much Notice of this? You ſay this had a Star in her Forehead, White on her Legs, and her Tail remarkable: I think you called it a *ſwaſh* Tail.

R. Gammon. I took great Notice of her; and am ſure it was the ſame I ſaw at Mr. Beck's Stable; I may be miſtaken in the Terms.

Council. I did not know that a ſwiſh Tail was at all remarkable; I thought it was very common; and very common too to have a Star or Blaze, as well as white Heels; pray have not you ſeen many Horſes thus marked?

R. Gammon. I cannot ſay I have.

Council. Pray have you no Doubt about the Man?

R. Gammon. Not in the leaſt: I am ſure, very ſure.

Mr. Thomas Skinner, ſworn.

Court. Was you in the Poſt Chaiſe with Mr. Gammon when he was robbed?

Mr. Skinner. I was.

Court. Where was the Place?

Mr. Skinner. At Gangſdown Hill, about a Mile and a Half from Nettlebed.

Court. Where do you live?

Mr. Skinner. At *Henley*; I was born there.

Court. Was you robbed at the ſame Time?

Mr. Skinner. Yes.

Court. Is this Gangſdown-Hill in the Great Road?

Mr. Skinner. In the Great Road, my Lord, to London.

Court. Do you remember ſeeing the Priſoner at the Bar?

Mr. Skinner. I remember ſeeing a Man of the ſame Size; and the lower Part of his Face much like the Priſoner's; but I can ſay nothing to the upper Part of it, as that was covered with Crape; and therefore I will not ſwear he is the Man.

Court. Do you believe he is?

Mr. Skinner. Why, as to believing, a Man would be very cautious.

Court. Well, do you believe him *not* to be the Man?

Mr. Skinner. No; I do not know he is not, but believe he is. When Mr. Gammon told me there was a ſuſpicious Man upon the Road, the Perſon was then going towards Oxford, and when he returned I was perfectly awake, ſaw the Colour of the Mare, her Tail, and the Man's Body; that is his Back, and took Notice of him myſelf.

Court. Which Way was he then going?

Mr. Skinner. Towards Nettlebed.

Court. How long was this after Mr. Gammon alarmed you?

Mr. Skinner. About a Minute.

Court. What did you obſerve of the Horſe?

Mr. Skinner. She had a Swiſh Tail; her Colour I put down a light Sorrel, in a Memorandum which I made at my Return Home; but I ſince find the Gentlemen of the Faculty call her a light Cheſnut. Soon after the Perſon rode by upon this Mare, Mr. Gammon ſaid, he is now robbing my Daughter: I then lean'd out of the Chaiſe, and ſaw him with a Piſtol at the Door of the other Poſt Chaiſe; his Face was covered, but I took particular Notice of the Mare.

Court. How far was the firſt Chaiſe before you?

Mr. Skinner. As near as it was poſſible for ours to come. After he had robbed the other Chaiſe he came back to ours, and ſwore very much. Mr. Gammon was a good deal ſurprized when he clapped his Piſtol into the Chaiſe, and demanded our Money and Watches, and he gave him his Money, and I mine, and with it the Tavern Bills. Says the Priſoner, what are theſe; and returned them back again: He then demanded my Watch.

Court. What Money did you give him?

Mr. Skinner. A Guinea and ſome Silver. I held my Watch to him, as I do now; [*pulling out his Watch*] he looked at it, and ſaid, I don't take Silver Watches. I ſaid, I don't think any one in this Company has a Gold one except my Friend here. When he had taken my Money he then ordered Mr. Gammon to deliver his Watch. Mr. Gammon took the Watch out of his Breeches, where had concealed it; however the Priſoner did not take it at that Time, but went forward again to the other Chaiſe. I then had an Opportunity of obſerving the Mare again, and I am apt to take ſome Notice of a Horſe, as I keep a Couple myſelf, and am fond of Horſes. At this Time I obſerved him preſent his Piſtol into the Chaiſe, and he ſtaid there about the Space of four Minutes, and then came back again to us, ordered Mr. Gammon to give him his Watch, and ſwore he would ſhoot if we did not give him more Money. I told him I had no more, and offered to come out of the Chaiſe for him to ſearch me. He ſeemed at this Time to be in a Hurry. Having taken the Watch he turned away behind the Chaiſe a few Paces, after which he came back again and deſired we would not appear againſt him. In anſwer to which I promiſed, that if he would reſtore the Watch we would not. He ſaid if we would give him three or four Guineas more he would return it then. I told him we had no more Money about us, and gave him Mr. Gammon's Name and Place of Abode, with a Promiſe, That if he would ſend the Watch, the Perſon that brought it ſhould have no Queſtions aſked him, and ſhould receive the four Guineas on Delivery of the Watch. He then went off, and I ſaw nothing farther of him.

Court.

Court. Are you very certain that you know the Horſe which the Highwayman rode?

Mr. Skinner. Yes; it was a bright ſorrel Mare, with a Star in her Forehead, and a ſwiſh Tail; I ſaw her enough to know her well. I was at Beck's Livery Stable laſt Wedneſday ſe'nnight, and I ſaw her Yeſterday in Oxford. George Beck ſhewed me the Mare that the Priſoner hired, and the Mare he ſhewed me was the ſame the Man rode that robbed me.

Court. How was the Man dreſſed?

Mr. Skinner. He had on a looſe Coat, but I do not remember the Colour.

Court. Do you know any Thing of the Letter Mr. Gammon mentioned?

Mr. Skinner. The Letter produced in Court is the ſame I ſent to Mr. Gammon; I had it from one of the Oxford Coachman, who brought it from Nettlebed the next Morning; [*the Letter was given to him in Court*] I have read it now and find it to be the ſame which I ſent.

Court. Pray Did you put any Mark upon it?

Mr. Skinner. No, I did not, but remember it to be the ſame.

Croſs Examination.

Council for the Priſoner. Pray what Time was the Robbery committed?

Mr. Skinner. About Seven o'Clock in the Evening.

Council. About Duſk I ſuppoſe; was it light enough for you to diſtinguiſh eaſily at that Diſtance?

Mr. Skinner. Yes, at three Times the Diſtance.

Council. Pray how long had the Sun been ſet?

Mr. Skinner. About Five Minutes.

Council. You are not ſure the Priſoner is the Man?

Mr. Skinner. I could not ſee enough of him to ſwear to him?

Council. Did you take particular Notice of his Horſe?

Mr. Skinner. It was a Mare he rode; ſhe had a Star and a ſwiſh Tail, but I did not obſerve her Feet.

Council. You have ſeen the Mare you ſay ſince; do you from the Appearance ſay ſhe is the ſame?

Mr. Skinner. Yes.

Council. May not there be many Horſes like that which you ſaw?

Mr. Skinner. I cannot be ſure there is none like her?

Francis Webley, ſworn.

Court. Pray where do you live Mr. Webley?

F. Webley. My Lord I keep the Red Lion Inn at Nettlebed.

Court. Pray do you know any Thing of the Priſoner at the Bar?

F. Webley. I believe I have ſeen him at my Houſe.

Court. Do you know Mr. Skinner or Mr. Gammon, and any Thing of their being robbed?

F. Webley. I remember hearing of the Robbery, but do not know either of the Gentlemen; and can recollect that I ſaw the Priſoner at my Houſe upon the Day the Robbery was committed; he came in about Three or Four o'Clock, dined, and went away between Six and Seven to the beſt of my Recollection.

Court. Do you remember his Dreſs?

F. Webley. He had on a brown Coat lined with Green, and a Piece of black Crape round his Neck.

Court. Had he a Surtout over it?

F. Webley. No; but I believe there was one buckled upon the Saddle?

Court. What Colour was his Horſe?

F. Webley. I do not recellect, as I took very little Notice of it.

Court. Do yov know any Thing of any Letters being left at your Houſe by the Priſoner?

F. Webley. Yes; I believe the Letter which has been produced in Court is one of them.

Court. How were the Letters ſent?

F. Webley. They were given to one of the Oxford Coaches the next Morning.

Croſs Examination.

Council for the Priſoner. Are you poſitive that the Priſoner at the Bar is the ſame Perſon who was at your Houſe upon the Day the Robbery was committed.

F. Webley. I cannot be very poſitive; but to the beſt of my Remembrance he is ſo. I took the more Notice of him as he came in without calling the Oſtler,

Oſtler, and went into a Room without being ſhewn; I followed him in, and he aſked for a ſmaller Room.

Council. Had you ever ſeen him before that Time?

F. Webley. Not that I remember.

Council. How was he dreſſed?

F. Webley. He was dreſſed in a brown Coat with a green Lining, which I had not before obſerved, and therefore thought it ſomething odd.

Council. Had he any great Coat on?

F. Webley. No; but I recollect to have ſeen the Saddle lay out in the Yard to dry, and that there was a great Coat buckled to it.

Robert Simons, ſworn.

Court. Pray where do you live?

Simonds. I am Oſtler at the Red Lion at Nettlebed.

Court. Do you know the Priſoner at the Bar?

Simonds. I believe I have ſeen him at my Maſter's Houſe.

Court. Can you remember at what Time?

Simonds. The Time I recollect was upon the Day of the Robbery at Gangſdown Hill.

Court. What Time of the Day did he leave your Houſe?

Simonds. He came in about Three or Four o'Clock; and went away in the Shank of the Evening.

Court. What Colour was his Horſe?

Simonds. It was a light Bay Mare with a ſwiſh Tail.

Court. Have you ſeen the Mare ſince?

Simonds. Yes; I have ſeen her at the Angel, and believe it to be the ſame. Hearing the Mare was in Town I had the Curioſity to ſee her.

Court. Are you ſure the Priſoner at the Bar is the ſame Man?

Simonds. I cannot make Oath as to the Priſoner; but to the beſt of my Knowledge am ſure as to the Mare.

Court. Had you any Suſpicion at the Time?

Simonds. No.

Court. Do you know any Thing of any Letter left by the Priſoner?

Simonds. No; but to the beſt of my Remembrance, can recollect that the Priſoner aſked me about the Time the Poſt went out, and that he ſaid he had two Letters to ſend to Town.

Croſs Examination.

Council for the Priſoner. Pray had you any Reaſon to make any particular Obſervation on the Man?

Simonds. No; I took the more Notice of him becauſe of his Dreſs; becauſe it was not like a Livery, and yet I thought it did not look like a Gentleman.

Council. Pray what Dreſs was he in?

Simonds. A brown Coat with a green Lining; and had a black Neckcloth.

Council. Pray don't you very often ſee Gentlemen in that Dreſs?

Simonds. No; I thought it very odd.

Council. When did you hear of the Robbery?

Simonds. I heard of it the next Morning.

[This Witneſs was then ſent out of Court by his Lordſhip to ſee the Mare again, with Mr. Beck's Son.]

Mary Heſter, ſworn.

Court. Where do you live Mary Heſter?

Mary Heſter. I live with Mr. Webley at the Red Lion at Nettlebed.

Court. Give an Account of what you know of the Priſoner at the Bar.

Mary Heſter. To the beſt of my Remembrance he was at our Houſe upon the Tueſday the Robbery was committed. I remember to have carried in half a Pint of Wine, and obſerved that he had on a brown Coat lined with green, and had ſomething black about his Neck.

Court. Do you remember his having a Pen, Ink, and Paper; or do you know any Thing of a Letter?

M. Heſter. No.

Court. Do you believe the Priſoner to be the ſame Man? And what Time did he go away?

M. Heſter. Yes; I believe it to be the ſame Perſon; and he went away between Six and Seven o'Clock, to the beſt of my Remembrance; but I did not obſerve whether he went the London or Oxford Road.

Croſs Examination.

Council for the Priſoner. Pray did you ſee the Perſon you ſpeak of any where elſe beſides in the Room when you carried him the Wine?

M. Heſter.

M. Heſter. Yes; I ſaw him in the Yard, and in the Garden.

Council. When did you hear of the Robbery?

Mary Heſter. Next Morning.

Council. Had you any Diſtruſt of the Priſoner?

M. Heſter. No.

Robert Beck, ſworn.

Court. Where do you live, Mr. Beck?

Robert Beck. I live in Gravel-Lane, Southwark, my Lord.

Court. What Buſineſs do you follow?

R. Beck. I keep a Livery Stable, and lett Horſes.

Court. Have you ever ſeen the Priſoner?

R. Beck. Yes; I have lett Horſes to him more than once before.

Court. Do you remember when?

R. Beck. No, my Lord, I cannot particularly recollect the Time.

Court. Do you remember the Horſe being brought Home which was lett to the Priſoner?

R. Beck. Yes, my Lord, I remember the Mare's being returned, but I did not ſee her come Home.

Court. How long was it after her being returned that you ſaw her?

R. Beck. The ſame Day.

Court. When did you lett her?

R. Beck. It was my Son that lett her; ſhe went out the 21ſt of Auguſt.

Court. Deſcribe the Horſe which was lett to the Priſoner.

R. Beck. It was a Mare, my Lord. She is a light Cheſnut, with white Legs, a Blaze in her Face, and has a ſwiſh Tail.

Court. You ſay your Son lett the Mare the 21ſt, pray when was the firſt Time you ſaw her afterwards?

R. Beck. Upon the Evening of the 27th, the ſame Day ſhe was returned.

Court. You have ſeen the ſame Mare ſeveral Times ſince, I ſuppoſe.

R. Beck. Yes, my Lord, I have her now in Oxford.

Court. Pray do you remember any Thing of a Gentleman's coming to ſee the Mare at any Time?

R. Beck. Yes, I remember Mr. Gammon's coming the Morning after ſhe came Home.

Court. Pray has the Priſoner often hired Horſes of you; and do you know him?

R. Beck. Yes, my Lord, I know his Perſon very well; and have let him Horſes I believe twice before; I did not lett this Mare to him.

Court. Pray how did he behave?

R. Beck. Very much like a Geutleman; he always before returned to his Time, and paid honourably.

Court. Pray how long is it ſince he had a Horſe of you before?

R. Beck. About three or four Months I believe: I cannot recollect juſtly; we always ſet the Time down in the Book, both of their going out and their Return.

William Marſden, ſworn.

Court. Pray do you know the Priſoner at the Bar?

William Marſden. Yes, my Lord.

Court. How long have you known him?

W. Marſden. About three Years.

Court. Did you ever ſee him write?

W. Marſden. [After a ſhort Pauſe.] I believe I have, but 'tis a great while ago.

Court. Pray where do you live?

W. Marſden. With Mr. Juſtice Fielding. I apprehended the Priſoner.

Court. Pray where did you apprehend him?

W. Marſden. In Little Bartholomew Cloſe, Weſt Smithfield; upon the 30th of Auguſt laſt.

Court. What coloured Cloaths had he on?

W. Marſden. He was undreſſed and in Bed when I came, but when he dreſſed himſelf he put on a Snuff-coloured Coat, lined with green.

Court. Did he make any Reſiſtance?

W. Marſden. No, my Lord; I ſaid, Darkin, where are your Arms? And he anſwered, I will give them to you: Upon which he unlocked a little Trunk, and delivered up a Pair of Pocket Piſtols, and a Horſeman's Piſtol. I have them here, my Lord: Mr. Gammon ſaw them at Mr. Fielding's, but could not undertake to challenge them. The Priſoner behaved very well according to his Circumſtances. Upon his firſt ſeeing me he aſked if I was come to

take him; and I anſwered that he was my Priſoner. He replied that he would go with me, for he had nothing to fear now. He obſerved that the Perſon who was with me had a Pair of Handcuffs, and he begged that they might not be put on, but deſired that we would ſuffer him to go out without the People having any Suſpicion of his being a Priſoner. We indulged him in this, one going down Stairs before him, and the other following, and he made no Attempt to eſcape.

Court. Did you ſearch his Room?

W. Marſden. Yes, my Lord, but I found nothing in his Trunk or his Room that was any way ſuſpicious except the Arms which he gave me.

Croſs Examination.

Council for the Priſoner. Gentlemen be ſo kind as to ſtand a little on one ſide, that I may ſee my Friend Marſden. Pray Mr. Marſden was it not the Cuſtom in London for Gentlemen to wear Cloaths lined with Green about that Time?

W. Marſden. Yes, Sir, I thought it genteel; and when I heard that it was taken Notice of, could not think there was any thing extraordinary in it, as I thought it a faſhionable Dreſs.

Simonds the Oſtler called again.

Court. Have you ſeen the Mare?

Simonds. Yes, I have been down to the Angel and have ſeen her, and I believe it to be the ſame which the Priſoner had at Nettlebed.

George Beck ſworn.

Court. Pray where do you live?

George Beck. I am Son to Robert Beck, in Gravel Lane.

Court. Pray have you ever ſeen the Priſoner at the Bar at your Father's Houſe?

G. Beck. Yes, I have ſeen him there more than once, and particularly in Auguſt laſt, when I let him the Mare which I have juſt now ſeen at the Angel.

Court. What Colour is the Mare?

G. Beck. A light Cheſnut, has a Star in her Forehead, white Feet behind, and a ſwiſh Tail.

Court. When did you let her?

G. Beck. I believe it was on a Thurſday.

Court. How long was ſhe hired for?

G. Beck. For three or four Days; and ſhe was out Seven Days.

Court. Do you know the Day of the Month..

G. Beck. No my Lord; I told my Father at the Time, and it was entered in the Book; I believe it might be in the Beginning of Auguſt, I told my Father that I had let her to Mr. Harris; that was the Name the Gentleman had her in.

Mr. Marſden called again.

Court. Pray do you know the Priſoner by the Name of Harris.

W. Marſden. Yes I know he has gone by that Name; but his right Name is Darkin.

The Priſoner was then called upon for his Defence, and was aſked if he had any Evidence to examine? To which he replied that he had not any Evidence; that he relied upon his Trial being put off, and therefore came to the Bar under great Diſadvantages, as he was unprepared: But that he was entirely innocent of the Fact with which he was charged: And that if his Trial had been put off he could have made his Innocence appear beyond all doubt.

His Lordſhip then ſummed up the Evidence to the Jury; and obſerved upon the whole, that the Proſecutor had been clear and explicit; that he appeared very certain as to the Priſoner's being the Man who robbed him; and that his Evidence was greatly ſupported in point of Probability by a Series of other Evidence, without any one Circumſtance which claſhed with it. And after making proper Obſervations on the Nature of the Offence, and the Evidence required therein, bid them conſider of their Verdict and acquit their Conſciences as became honeſt Men.

The Jury not having Room to come together in Court, deſired to withdraw; and in a few Minutes they returned and brought in their Verdict *Guilty*.

The Priſoner was then taken from the Bar, when he firſt made a Bow to the Court, and afterwards turned and did the like to the Jury.

About

About Nine o'Clock in the Evening he was again brought up to the Bar to receive Sentence; at which Time he delivered in the following Petition:

" *My Lord!*

" *I Hope your Lordſhip will not think* " *me impertinent in offering theſe few* " *Lines:* —— *The Abſence of a prin-* " *cipal Evidence has ſubjected me to many* " *Inconveniencies during the Courſe of* " *my Trial; therefore I hope your Lord-* " *ſhip will make that a Point of your* " *Conſideration. If there be any Hopes* " *of Mercy from your Lordſhip's benign* " *Diſpoſition, I need not tell you how* " *heartily and thankfully it will be re-* " *ceived.*——*Tranſportation, My Lord,* " *though for Life, would greatly re-* " *lieve the Afflictions of,*

" *My Lord!*

" *Your Lordſhip's moſt unhappy,*

" *and diſtreſſed Servant,*

" ISAAC DARKIN.

His Lordſhip then moſt pathetically acquainted him with his deplorable Situation as follows; " Young Man, " you have been arraigned upon an " Indictment for a Robbery on the " King's Highway, and have been " found Guilty after a full and candid " Trial. From your Youth you might " have expected to have lived many, " many Years; and from your Edu- " cation might have been a Comfort " to your Friends and Relations, and " a Service to your Country: But your " engaging in vicious and immoral " Courſes hath at length brought you " to this untimely End.——A Day of " this Sort you could not but have ex- " pected; and it hath now overtaken " you. Happy would it have been " for you, had your former Delive- " rance in a Situation ſuch as this, " been a Memento to you to have al- " tered your Conduct.——I hope your " preſent Circumſtances will have a " better Effect upon you, and induce " you to Repentance.——Make proper " Uſe of the Time you have to live in " endeavouring to make your Peace " with God, for you will ſoon be in " another World.

" Your Application to Me for Mercy " is quite in vain: It is not in My " Power to ſhew it. From the King " only it is to be expected; of which, " however, I can give you but little, " very little Hopes.——What is left " for me is only to pronounce the " Sentence that the Law inflicts, which " is, — *That you*, Iſaac Darkin, *muſt* " *be taken back to the Goal from whence* " *you came, and from thence at the* " *uſual Time, carried to the Place of* " *Execution; and there be hanged up by* " *the Neck till your Body be dead, and* " *the Lord have Mercy on your Soul.*"

Curioſity having drawn together a Multitude of People, who were all deſirous of ſeeing the poor unhappy Criminal; to avoid any Inconvenience which might have attended his Removal back to the Caſtle at that Time of Night, he was kept behind the reſt of the Priſoners a conſiderable Time, and was about Midnight privately removed almoſt without its being known.

He was indulged with a Poſt Chaiſe when brought up to the Court, but after his Conviction, particular Orders were given not to ſhew him more Reſpect than is uſual to People in the like Circumſtances; in purſuance of which he was conducted back on Foot.

Though it is natural to ſuppoſe a Man muſt be ſhocked by having ſo dreadful a Sentence pronounced upon him, yet in this Inſtance Mr. *Darkin* was ſomewhat prepared, having all along declared, to thoſe he imagined his Friends, that he ſhould moſt aſſuredly ſuffer; and uſed to preſcribe the Time, by ſaying, I ſhall certainly be dead in ſo many Weeks, or Days, according as the Aſſizes approached, allowing himſelf about a Fortnight after his Trial.

The

The following is the Affidavit Mr. *Darkin* delivered into Court, in order to put off his Trial to the next Aſſize, which we here inſert as the Reader will find by the annexed Letters, in what Manner it was obtained.

Middleſex, } To wit. }

The KING *againſt* Iſaac Darking. } *Committed by the Names of* Iſaac Darkin, *alias* Dumas, *alias* Hamilton, *alias* Harris, *for Felony and Robbery in the County of* Oxford.

JOHN HALL, of the Pariſh of St. Andrew, Holborn, in the County of Middleſex, Cordwanier, maketh Oath, That he this Deponent did, on the Second Day of March Inſtant, go to the Dwelling Houſe of Charles Oſborn, ſituate at Hampſtead, in the ſaid County, in Order to ſerve the ſaid Charles Oſborn with a Subpœna, to give Evidence on Behalf of the ſaid Defendant, at the next Aſſizes, to be held for the County of Oxford; and this Deponent then found the ſaid Charles Oſborn ſick in Bed, of a violent Fever, and incapable of being at the ſaid next Aſſizes: And this Deponent further ſaith, That the ſaid Charles Oſborn is a very material Witneſs for the ſaid Defendant upon his Trial, for the Offence for which he is committed; and that without the Teſtimony of the ſaid Charles Oſborn, the ſaid Defendant cannot ſafely proceed to take his Trial at the ſaid next Aſſizes, for the ſaid County of Oxford.

JOHN HALL.

Sworn before me, March 3, 1761,
G. WRIGHT.

To Mr. Darkin, in the Caſtle at Oxford.

'DEAR SIR, *Febr.* 26, 1761.

'I Have this Day ſeen Mr. *S——t*, and have the Pleaſure to tell you, 'that he promiſed you all the Aſſiſtance in his Power; and particu-'larly he aſſured me he would ſend a Perſon he was ſure could be of Ser-'vice to you; but begs I will let him know when the Aſſizes are, and 'that you'll pleaſe *to ſend the Name of the indiſpoſed Perſon*, as he muſt 'bring down the Affidavit with him: Likewiſe a Copy of your Commit-'ment, for he informs me this muſt be done in Town, ſo I hope you 'will write all the Particulars, that I may let him know. Mr. *S——t* 'tells me *Darvil* is confined in New Priſon for ſhooting a Man dead, I 'have ſent you the Account in the encloſed News Paper: Mr. *S——t* 'thinks his Confinement will be of Service to you. If you think I can-'not have a Letter by the Poſt on Saturday, ſend it by the Coach, and 'I will call for it at the Bolt and Tun; I think that Coach comes there.

'I have not ſeen *Nancy* ſince I had your Letter, but know ſhe is 'well, and ſhe ſends her Love with mine. I am ſorry to hear you are 'deprived of the Pleaſure of the Gentlemens coming to ſee you, for it 'muſt paſs away many diſagreeable Hours. Now I have ſome Hopes of 'being again happy. 'I am ever Yours C.'

'P. S. Pray write to Night without Fail as I have appointed to meet 'him

'him again. You are ſure of my Aſſiſtance, Sir, as far as in my Power. 'Once more farewell. [*N. B. In this Letter was encloſed a Guinea, and upon a ſeparate Piece of Paper the two following Lines.*]

'Hopeleſs and ſilent I do ſtill adore;
'Her Heart's more hard than Steel.

'Sir, I beg you will inform me if the encloſed is your Addreſs you in-'tend ſending to the Coffee-Houſes you mentioned.'

To Mr. Darkin, &c.

'My Dear, *March* the 3d. 1761.

'I See Mr. *S*——*t* to Day; he tells me he has conſulted a Lawyer, and 'he aſſures me the Affair you will receive is much better than the 'Perſon that was mentioned to come: As he muſt know better than me 'I have intirely gone by his Directions, which I hope will have the de-'ſired Effect: He gave me many Reaſons why he thought it was better. 'I ſee to Day Mr, *Evans*, he told me he ſhould be at Oxford on Thurſ-'day, and the Gentleman that was with him. *S*——*t* has hurt his 'Leg and is quite lame, or he ſays he ſhould have been down: He beg-'ged I would aſſure his Service to you, as doth Mr. *South*. I wiſh if 'this Affair ſucceeds, which I pray to God it may, that you will write 'to *S*——*t*. My Dear I conclude with my Prayers for your Succeſs, 'and remain ever Yours.

'P. S. Pray write immediately as you muſt think me impatient to know.'

From the ſame Hand Mr. *Darkin* alſo received theſe Letters; the firſt upon Wedneſday the 18th of March, Inſtant. and the latter on Sunday Evening the 22d, the Night before his Execution.

To Mr. Darkin, &c.

'My Dear,

'I Hope you will receive this, but you muſt certainly think me mad, 'for I always till this Morning read in your laſt *Thurſday*, but I ſee it 'is *Tueſday*; which has made me very uneaſy; yet I am in hopes you 'will have this, as you was not ſure. O how unhappy am I!—I fear, 'I dread your next. The Time flies ſwift as Thought. How ſhall I 'conclude! How ſhall I think this my laſt to one I love more than my 'Life! Yet muſt I be ever Yours, M. C.

'P. S. Do you remember, my Dear, you have a blue Heart you wear 'in your Neck? My Life farewell: God bleſs you, ever and ever.

'My Dear I am diſappointed in what I promiſed, and this is all I have; 'but I hope it will be of Service: I know it will fall ſhort of your Ex-'pectations, which makes me unhappy, but I cannot do more. Adieu, 'Adieu. You know I would if it was in my Power.' [*N. B. In this Letter was likewiſe incloſed a Guinea.*]

To Mr. Darkin, in the Caſtle at Oxford.

MY DEAR! *March* 21, 1761.

'THOUGH cruel Fate will part us for ever, yet you are ſo 'ſtrongly printed on my Heart, no Time can ever waſte you from 'my Memory; that is impoſſible my Dear. I have a Pleaſure in know-'ing you will be happy, as we are all promiſed a Pardon when we aſk 'it: God is very merciful, and if we truſt in him we ſurely ſhall be ſaved. 'I wiſh I could be happy with you. I am obliged to you for your good 'Advice, and will certainly take it, for what is this World without Con-'tent of Mind. *Nancy* was with me when I received your laſt, ſo I know 'you have heard from her: We are as intimate as ever; I know that will 'give you Pleaſure. Let me but think of any Thing to make you happy 'and I am ſo. Think of me (unhappy *Polly*) in your laſt Moments: 'You know I never can forget you. I hope you'll write again, my Life 'and Soul; I think I ſhall never. Farewell. My Continual Prayers are 'ever for you. God bleſs you.

'Your's M. C.'

From frequent Converſation with Mr. *Darkin*, it was eaſy to collect his Maxims. He had a proper Abhorrence to the moſt dreadful Crime of Murder; hence, in all his Attacks, though he was by no Means ſparing in his Threats, yet he never put them in Execution. He had a high Notion of *Honour*; which he thus defined: The being grateful for Favours received; the fulfilling of his Engagements; and the not appearing *mean*. As a Delicacy in Converſation, (if it turned upon his own Employment,) he never mentioned a *Robbery*, *Robber*, or *Highwayman*: He ſpoke of Perſons who had been *injured*; and of the *injured Parties*. —As to himſelf, and thoſe in his Occupation, he conſidered them as People in an unhappy Situation; for he ſaid no Perſon would injure another, by taking from him his Property merely for Diverſion; and that it was Neceſſity which threw them into ſuch deſperate Circumſtances. His Converſation was rather agreeable, as he endeavoured always to ſuit it to the preſent Company; and his Diſcourſe was not affectedly larded with *flaſh Terms*: His moſt favourite Expreſſions of that Kind being chiefly centered in a *Cake* or a *Flat*, which was his Term for a Perſon of whoſe Intellects he had but a mean Opinion.

In Mr. *Darkin* there was all that Levity which is uſually met with in ſuch kind of People; and we are afraid too, that he will be found rather a *genuine Mackheath*, than one who in his *laſt Extremities* doubly hazarded his Life, by the Riſk of a Rencounter on the Road, and the Fate which at length befel him: Since it is certain, that durinig his Impriſonment at Oxford, for his laſt Offence, he diverted himſelf one Evening before his Trial, by reading the *Beggar's Opera*, when he appeared to enter thoroughly into the Spirit of *Mackheath's Part*, and ſeemed greatly to enjoy the Character.——This laſt Anedcote, as being a Fact, we have thrown in to give a real Picture of the Man, though it unfortunately claſhes a little with one of his Maxims already cited.

He

He was a Youth naturally of a gay Diſpoſition, and fond of Company; which procured him in London a large Circle of Acquaintance among thoſe of a like Turn, who, during his Confinement in Newgate, were conſtant Viſiters; by this Means he paſſed his Time away very chearfully: And upon his Removal to Oxford, thought himſelf happy amidſt his Diſtreſſes, that the Curioſity excited by his Circumſtances introduced him to the beſt Company, and alſo furniſhed him with a Subſiſtance.

About a Week before he ſuffered, a Meſſenger came to him, who begged, for a particular Reaſon, he would ſatisfy him whether he received any Intelligence of the Money Lord *Percival* had along with him at the Time he was robbed near the Devizes: But, as at other Times, he refuſed this Gentleman any ſatisfactory Anſwer; though he had before owned to others that he was the Man who committed that Robbery.

He was poſſeſſed of too great a Share of Pride for his Circumſtances in Life, and retained more of it to the laſt than was becoming a Perſon in his unhappy Situation. He had a Taſte for Elegance in every Reſpect was remarkably fond of Silk Stockings, and neat in his Linnen; had his Hair dreſſed in the moſt faſhionable Manner every Morning; his poliſhed Fetters were ſupported round his Waiſt by a Sword Belt, and tied up at his Knees with Ribbon: Inſomuch that a worthy Divine with Concern ſaid, He was afraid Mr. *Darkin* ſtudied more to appear like a Gentleman than a Penitent Chriſtian.

Upon Mr. *Darkin*'s receiving his Sentence two Clergymen of eminent Abilities were ſo kind as to offer him their Aſſiſtance, which he thankfully accepted; but on one of them exhorting him to unburthen his Mind by a Declaration of his Guilt, he urged that he could not think a Confeſſion of them would in any Degree leſſen his Crimes, and did not deſire any one to ſuppoſe him innocent. But afterwards he gave as a Reaſon for his Refuſal, *that he could not confeſs with Safety*; from whence it may reaſonably be inferred, he was afraid of injuring his Confederates.

Under Sentence he enjoyed in all Appearance an amazing Tranquility, and ſeemed ſo perfectly reſigned as to prefer his then deplorable Condition to his former Life: But was deſirous of ſuffering very early in the Morning, and ſaid he hoped he ſhould not ſee any Women among the Spectators, as that would affect him greatly, for they had been his Ruin.

The Evening before he ſuffered he took Leave of ſeveral People, and ſeemed a good Deal more eaſy, as he was aſſured his Body ſhould not be anatomized: He packed up his Linnen, &c. and his Boxes were delivered to a Friend, to diſpoſe of according to previous Directions.—— That Night he did not undreſs himſelf, but laid down for about two Hours, when he ſaid he had a frightful Dream of an Encounter with *Death*, and that he had alſo had pleaſing Dreams.

The Morning of the Execution he received the Sacrament, and then ſaid he was ready; upon which one of the Priſoners that was to be Hangman, was called in, and his Arms were tied behind with a black Ribbon, but, according to his own Requeſt, his Hands were left at Liberty.

Juſt before he went from the Chapel he took his Leave of a Gentleman whom he deſired to acquaint his Friends with his Behaviour.—He was not Twenty One Years of Age till the Second of April next; notwithſtanding which, it is ſuppoſed that he has taken Money on the Highway to the Amount of 600 l.

At

At the Place of Execution, whilſt the Cord was tying up, he kneeled down at the Foot of the Ladder, and read the following Prayers from a Paper he took out of his Pocket.

" *LORD waſh my Soul in thy Blood, that it may be preſented without*
" *Spot unto Thee: Let me die in thy Favour and reſt in Peace, and riſe*
" *again in Glory. Amen.*

" *HAVE me in thy Cuſtody, O Holy Father, for nothing can take me out*
" *of thine Hands; and give Thy Holy Angels charge over me, to guard*
" *and receive my poor Soul at my Departure, and to conduct and carry it to*
" *the bleſſed Receptacles of Reſt and Peace. Amen.*

" *IN Thee, O Lord Jeſus Chriſt, my moſt merciful Saviour and only*
" *Redeemer, in Thee alone is all my Truſt, O let me never be con-*
" *founded. Amen.*

Having repeated theſe Prayers, he ſtepped up the Ladder very quick, and with great Reſolution, where he pulled off his Neckcloth, unbattoned the Collar of his Shirt, and his Waiſtcoat, and put the Rope about his Neck: Then pulling a White Handkerchief out of his Pocket, which he tied over his Face, and ſeveral Times begging of the Populace to hang upon him, he turned his Back to the Ladder, and himſelf fixing the Rope, in a Moment dropped his Neckcloth as a Signal, but without waiting for the Ladder's being turned, ſtepped off.

He was dreſſed in Mourning, with a ſtriped Waiſtcoat under his black one, and had on a clean ruffled Shirt. In his Pocket was a Green Silk Purſe with thirteen Shillings and Sixpence, which was delivered to the Executioner.

After hanging near an Hour, he was cut down, and his Body carried off by the Bargemen, who took him to St. Thomas's Pariſh Church, where they cut open his Belly and filled it with unſlaked Lime: They then opened the Grave where *Grindey* was buried, who was hanged ſome Years ago for returning from Tranſportation, and buried him in that Coffin.

FINIS.